

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01395 021513Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06

AID-05 IO-10 /075 W

----- 003274

R 020130Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2676

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 1395

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: "PRG VICTORY" BECOMES A MAY DAY THEME IN SRI LANKA

REF: A) COLOMBO 1394

B) COLOMBO 1377

C) COLOMBO 1373

1. SUMMARY: LARGE MAY DAY CROWDS WALKED IN SIX HOUR ORDERLY PROCESSING YESTERDAY TO HEAR UNITED FRONT LEADERS SPICE TRADITIONAL EXHORTATIONS WITH NEWS OF SAIGON'S SURRENDER (MAY DAY FESTIVITIES REPORTED REFTEL A. WITH GSL'S OFFICIAL REACTION (REPORTED REFTEL B) SETTING ANTI-AMERICAN THEME, LABOR LEADERS OF CENTRIST SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) AS WELL AS LEFT-WING COMPONENTS OF UNITED FRONT (UF) RESHAPED MAY DAY SPEECHES TO REFLECT NEW VIETNAM SITUATION. PRESS REPORTING HAS STRONGLY FAVORED PRG PSOTION. RECENT PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET SURFACED AMONG SOME TRADITIONALLY PRO-WESTERN INTERESTS, BUT MOST EXCUSED NORTH VIETNAM AGGRESSION AS HASTENING AN INEVITABLE HISTORICAL PROCESS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 01395 021513Z

END SUMMARY.

2. SAIGON SURRENDER BECOMES MAY DAY THEME:

FULL-SCALE PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING WIRE SERVICES INPUT, EDITORIALS, GSL'S OFFICIAL REDETION, AND NUMEROUS STATEMENTS FROM UF POLITICIANS (REFTEL C) REACHED SRI LANKA'S LARGE NEWSPAPER READERSHIP ONLY HOURS BEFORE FINAL MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION PREPARATIONS WERE FIRMED UP. IMPLICITLY ANTI-AMERICAN TONE WHICH ACCOMPANIED GSL OFFICIAL CONGRATULATION TO "PRG" ON VICTORY PROMPTED WIDESPREAD MUTUAL BACKSLAPPING AMONG ELEMENTS OF UNITED FRONT GOVERNMENT FOR WISDOM IN EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO PRG AS EARLY AS 1970. UF CENTRISTS DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO MATCH LEFT-WING RHETORIC ABOUT GVN'S STATUS AS "IMPERIALIST STOOGES" AND SOME LABOR UNIONS TOOK UP THEME OF INEVITABLE "SOCIALIST" TRIUMPH IN BROADSHEETS DISTRIBUTED AT BEGINNING OF MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS. SAME THEME, PLAYED PROMINENT PART IN MAY DAY SPEECHES. IN UNP RALLY OPPOSITION LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE SAID GVN'S COLLAPSE PROVED NO OUTSIDE FORCE COULD DEFY WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

3. NORTH VIETNAM'S INTERVENTION EXCUSED: SRI LANKA PRESS, ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR, HAS TAKEN STRONGLY PRO-PRG POSITION DURING LAST SIX WEEKS, INCLUDING SUBSTITUTING "LIBERATION FORCES" FOR "INSURGENTS" IN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND A SPLASH OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING ALLEGED INCIDENTS OF AMERICAN ATROCITIES. PRO-WESTERN INTERESTS HAVE THUS FAR APPARENTLY CONCLUDED SILENCE IS BETTER PART OF VALOR. NOTWITHSTANDING PRIVATE APOLOGIES FOR STRONG LEFT-WING SLANT TO VIETNAM REPORTING, CONVICTION THAT "PRG TRIUMPH" WAS INEVITABLE HAS BEEN IMPLIED IN MOST VIETNAM-RELATED DISCUSSIONS IN RECENT WEEKS.

BYRNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ANTIAMERICAN, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB01395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750154-1150
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacydo.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COLOMBO 1394
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "PRG VICTORY" BECOMES A MAY DAY THEME IN SRI LANKA
TAGS: PINT, CE, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006